



July 31, 2006

Ms. Judith F. Judson, Chairwoman
Mr. James Connelly, Commissioner
Mr. W. Robert Keating, Commissioner
Mr. Brian Paul Golden, Commissioner
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Dear Commissioners,

I am a 76 year-old resident of Braintree. During lunch with a group of my friends last week, I found out that Verizon wants to offer cable services in my town, but does not want to negotiate with the Board of Selectmen. This is simply wrong.

Right now, I use Comcast as my cable provider. I think that they do a terrific job. They give money to the schools in our town, and bring internet to municipal buildings at little or no cost. As someone who frequents the local Council on Aging, I cannot tell you how important these services and additional funds are in keeping important programs and buildings up and running in communities throughout this state.

Please make sure that Verizon complies with the all of the rules that other businesses' must comply with. This is a matter of fairness. I cannot fathom why you would allow Verizon to get away with what they are trying to do, and if you do, shame on you. Many senior citizens rely on various municipal programs that Comcast, as a company that must negotiate with our elected officials, directly supports.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Oster
2037 Washington Street
Braintree, MA 02184